

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 30, 2002

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 16, 2002

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1263**

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**Introduced by Senator Soto**

January 14, 2002

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An act to amend Sections 4830 and 4848 of, *and to add Section 4854.5 to*, the Business and Professions Code, relating to veterinary medicine.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1263, as amended, Soto. Veterinary medicine.

Existing law, *the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act*, provides for the licensing and regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine. A violation of the act is a crime.

*The act* provides that the laws regulating the practice of veterinary medicine do not apply to individuals practicing veterinary medicine who meet certain requirements, including (1) veterinarians employed by the University of California while engaged in the performance of duties in connection with the College of Agriculture, the Agriculture Experiment Station, the School of Veterinary Medicine, or the agricultural extension work of the university, and (2) students in the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of California who participate in diagnosis and treatment as part of their educational experience, including those in off-campus educational programs under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian appointed by the university.

This bill would require, for purposes of the exception applicable to a student in an off-campus educational program, that the veterinarian who supervises the student be in good standing.

This bill would also exempt from the laws regulating the practice of veterinary medicine veterinarians employed by the Western University of Health Sciences while engaged in the performance of duties in connection with the College of Veterinary Medicine and students in the College of Veterinary Medicine of the Western University of Health Sciences who participate in diagnosis and treatment as part of their education experience, including those in off-campus educational programs under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian in good standing appointed by the university.

~~Existing law~~

*This bill would require an off-campus educational site to display in a conspicuous place a consumer notification specifying that the veterinary facilities are also being used for diagnosis and treatment of animals by graduate students in a veterinary medical program. The bill would provide that a violation of this requirement is not a crime.*

The Veterinary Medicine Practice Act requires the Veterinary Medical Board in the Department of Consumer Affairs to determine qualifications to practice veterinary medicine by means of an examination, including an examination concerning statutes and regulations of the ~~Veterinary Medicine Practice Act~~ act. Existing law exempts from this provision University of California veterinary medical students who have successfully completed a course on veterinary law and ethics meeting certain requirements.

This bill would require that the course *completed by the student* be board approved *in order for the student to qualify for the exemption*. The bill would also exempt from the examination requirement Western University of Health Sciences veterinary medical students meeting the course requirement.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 4830 of the Business and Professions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 4830. This chapter does not apply to:

1 (a) Veterinarians while serving in any armed branch of the  
2 military service of the United States or the United States  
3 Department of Agriculture while actually engaged and employed  
4 in their official capacity.

5 (b) Regularly licensed veterinarians in actual consultation  
6 from other states.

7 (c) Regularly licensed veterinarians actually called from other  
8 states to attend cases in this state, but who do not open an office  
9 or appoint a place to do business within this state.

10 (d) Veterinarians employed by the University of California  
11 while engaged in the performance of duties in connection with the  
12 College of Agriculture, the Agricultural Experiment Station, the  
13 School of Veterinary Medicine or the agricultural extension work  
14 of the university or employed by the Western University of Health  
15 Sciences while engaged in the performance of duties in connection  
16 with the College of Veterinary Medicine or the agricultural  
17 extension work of the university.

18 (e) Students in the School of Veterinary Medicine of the  
19 University of California or the College of Veterinary Medicine of  
20 the Western University of Health Sciences who participate in  
21 diagnosis and treatment as part of their educational experience,  
22 including those in off-campus educational programs under the  
23 direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian in good standing, as  
24 defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 4848,  
25 appointed by the University of California, Davis, or the Western  
26 University of Health Sciences.

27 (f) A veterinarian who is employed by the Meat and Poultry  
28 Inspection Branch of the California Department of Food and  
29 Agriculture while actually engaged and employed in his or her  
30 official capacity. A person exempt under this subdivision shall not  
31 otherwise engage in the practice of veterinary medicine unless he  
32 or she is issued a license by the board.

33 (g) Unlicensed personnel employed by the Department of Food  
34 and Agriculture or the United States Department of Agriculture  
35 when in the course of their duties they are directed by a  
36 veterinarian supervisor to conduct an examination, obtain  
37 biological specimens, apply biological tests, or administer  
38 medications or biological products as part of government disease  
39 or condition monitoring, investigation, control, or eradication  
40 activities.

1 SEC. 2. Section 4848 of the Business and Professions Code  
2 is amended to read:

3 4848. (a) (1) The board shall, by means of examination,  
4 ascertain the professional qualifications of all applicants for  
5 licenses to practice veterinary medicine in this state and shall issue  
6 a license to every person whom it finds to be qualified. No license  
7 shall be issued to anyone who has not demonstrated his or her  
8 competency by examination.

9 (2) The examination shall consist of each of the following:

10 (A) A licensing examination that is administered on a national  
11 basis.

12 (B) A California state board examination.

13 (C) An examination concerning those statutes and regulations  
14 of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act administered by the board.  
15 The examination shall be administered by mail and provided to  
16 applicants within 10 to 20 days of eligibility determination. The  
17 board shall have 10 to 20 days from the date of receipt to process  
18 the examination and provide candidates with the results of the  
19 examination. The applicant shall certify that he or she personally  
20 completed the examination. Any false statement is a violation  
21 subject to Section 4831. University of California and Western  
22 University of Health Sciences veterinary medical students who  
23 have successfully completed a board approved course on  
24 veterinary law and ethics covering the Veterinary Medicine  
25 Practice Act shall be exempt from this provision.

26 (3) The examinations may be given at the same time or at  
27 different times as determined by the board. For examination  
28 purposes, the board may make contractual arrangements on a sole  
29 source basis with organizations furnishing examination material  
30 as it may deem desirable and shall be exempt from Section 10115  
31 of the Public Contract Code.

32 (4) The licensing examination may be waived by the board in  
33 any case in which it determines that the applicant has taken and  
34 passed an examination for licensure in another state substantially  
35 equivalent in scope and subject matter to the licensing examination  
36 last given in California before the determination is made, and has  
37 achieved a score on the out-of-state examination at least equal to  
38 the score required to pass the licensing examination administered  
39 in California.

(5) Nothing in this chapter shall preclude the board from permitting a person who has completed a portion of his or her educational program, as determined by the board, in a veterinary college, recognized by the board under Section 4846, to take any examination or any part thereof prior to satisfying the requirements for application for a license established by Section 4846.

(b) The board shall waive the examination requirements of subdivision (a), and issue a temporary license valid for one year to an applicant to practice veterinary medicine under the supervision of another licensed California veterinarian in good standing, if the applicant meets all of the following requirements and would not be denied issuance of a license by any other provision of this code:

(1) The applicant holds a current valid license in good standing in another state, Canadian province, or United States territory and has practiced clinical veterinary medicine for a minimum of four years full time within the five years immediately preceding filing an application for licensure in this state. Experience obtained while participating in an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited institution's internship, residency, or specialty board training program shall be valid for meeting the minimum experience requirement.

The term "in good standing" means that an applicant under this section:

(A) Is not currently under investigation nor has been charged with an offense for any act substantially related to the practice of veterinary medicine by any public agency, nor entered into any consent agreement or subject to an administrative decision that contains conditions placed by an agency upon an applicant's professional conduct or practice, including any voluntary surrender of license, nor been the subject of an adverse judgment resulting from the practice of veterinary medicine that the board determines constitutes evidence of a pattern of incompetence or negligence.

(B) Has no physical or mental impairment related to drugs, alcohol, or has not been found mentally incompetent by a physician so that the applicant is unable to undertake the practice of veterinary medicine in a manner consistent with the safety of a patient or the public.

(2) At the time of original licensure, the applicant passed the national licensing requirement in veterinary science with a passing score or scores on the examination or examinations equal to or greater than the passing score required to pass the national licensing examination or examinations administered in this state.

(3) The applicant has either graduated from a veterinary college recognized by the board under Section 4846 or possesses a certificate issued by the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG).

(4) The applicant passes an examination concerning the statutes and regulations of the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, administered by the board, pursuant to subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a).

(5) The applicant agrees to complete an approved educational curriculum on regionally specific and important diseases and conditions during the period of temporary licensure. The board, in consultation with the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), shall approve educational curricula that cover appropriate regionally specific and important diseases and conditions that are common in California. The curricula shall focus on small and large animal diseases consistent with the current proportion of small and large animal veterinarians practicing in the state. The approved curriculum shall not exceed 30 hours of educational time. The board shall approve a curriculum as soon as practical, but not later than June 1, 1999. The approved curriculum may be offered by multiple providers so that it is widely accessible to candidates licensed under this subdivision.

(c) Upon receipt of acknowledgment of successful completion of the requirements set forth in subdivision (b), the board shall issue a license to the applicant. Any applicant who does not meet the requirements of subdivision (b) shall take a California state board examination as specified in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a).

*SEC. 3. Section 4854.5 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:*

*4854.5. (a) Every off-campus educational program site shall display in a conspicuous place a consumer notification specifying that the veterinary facilities are also being used for diagnosis and*

- 1 *treatment of animals by graduate students enrolled in a veterinary*
- 2 *medicine program.*
- 3 *(b) Notwithstanding Section 4831, or any other provision of*
- 4 *law, a violation of subdivision (a) shall not be a crime.*

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